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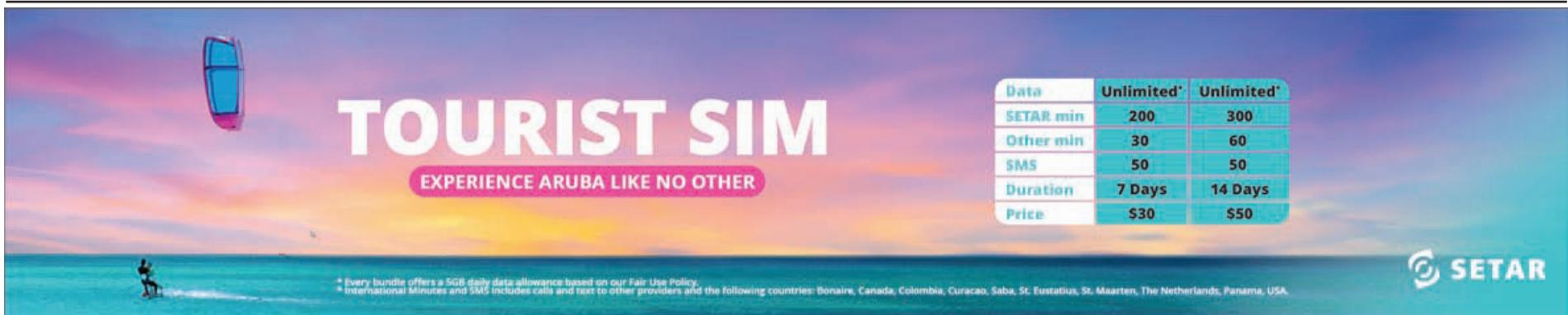
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SETAR

President-elect Trump wants to again rename North America's tallest peak

By CLAIRE RUSH

Associated Press

President-elect Donald Trump has once again suggested he wants to revert the name of North America's tallest mountain — Alaska's Denali — to Mount McKinley, wading into a sensitive and decades-old conflict about what the peak should be called.

Former President Barack Obama changed the official name to Denali in 2015 to reflect the traditions of Alaska Natives as well as the preference of many Alaska residents.

The federal government in recent years has endeavored to change place-



A boat is seen on the Susitna River near Talkeetna, Alaska, on Sunday, June 13, 2021, with Denali in the background.

Associated Press

names considered disrespectful to Native people. "Denali" is an Athabascan word meaning "the high one" or "the great one."

A prospector in 1896 dubbed the peak "Mount McKinley" after President William McKinley, who had never been to Alaska. That name was formally recognized by the U.S. government until Obama changed it over opposition from lawmakers in McKinley's home state of Ohio.

Trump suggested in 2016 that he might undo Obama's action, but he dropped that notion after Alaska's senators objected. He raised it again during a

rally in Phoenix on Sunday. "McKinley was a very good, maybe a great president," Trump said Sunday.

"They took his name off Mount McKinley, right? That's what they do to people."

Once again, Trump's suggestion drew quick opposition within Alaska.

"Uh. Nope. It's Denali," Democratic state Sen. Scott Kawasaki posted on the social platform X Sunday night.

Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski, who for years pushed for legislation to change the name to Denali, conveyed a similar sentiment in a post of her own.

"There is only one name worthy of North America's tallest mountain: Denali — the Great One," Murkowski wrote on X.

Various tribes of Athabascan people have lived in the shadow of the 20,310-foot (6,190-meter) mountain for thousands of years. McKinley, a Republican native of Ohio who served as the 25th president, was assassinated early in his second term in 1901 in Buffalo, New York.

Alaska and Ohio have been at odds over the name since at least the 1970s.

Alaska had a standing request to change the name since 1975, when the legislature passed a resolution and then-Gov. Jay Hammond appealed to the federal government.

Known for its majestic views, the mountain is dotted with glaciers and covered at the top with snow year-round, with powerful winds that make it difficult for the adventurous few who seek to climb it. □

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SCAN NOW TO APPLY

House Ethics Committee accuses Gaetz of paying for sex, including with 17-year-old girl

By FARNOUSH AMIRI and LISA MASCARO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House Ethics Committee on Monday accused Matt Gaetz of "regularly" paying for sex, including once with a 17-year-old girl, and purchasing and using illicit drugs as a member of Congress, as lawmakers released the conclusions of a nearly four-year investigation that helped sink his nomination for attorney general.

The 37-page report by the bipartisan panel includes explicit details of sex-filled parties and vacations that Gaetz, now 42, took part in from 2017 to 2020 while the Republican represented Florida's western Panhandle.

Congressional investigators concluded that Gaetz violated multiple state laws related to sexual misconduct while in office, though not federal sex trafficking laws. They also found that Gaetz "knowingly and willfully sought to impede and obstruct" the committee's work.

"The Committee determined there is substantial evidence that Representative Gaetz violated House Rules and other standards of conduct prohibiting prostitution, statutory rape, illicit drug use, impermissible gifts, special favors or privileges, and obstruction of Congress," the report said.

Before the report came out, Gaetz denied any wrongdoing and criticized the committee's process.

"Giving funds to someone you are dating that they didn't ask for and that isn't 'charged' for sex is now prostitution?!?!" he posted on X, the website formerly known as Twitter. "There is a reason they did this to me in a Christmas Eve-Eve report and not in a court-room of any kind where I could present evidence and challenge witnesses."

Gaetz, who was first elected in 2017, spent the majority of his time in Washington enmeshed in scandals that



Former Rep. Matt Gaetz, R- Fla., speaks at AmericaFest, Sunday, Dec. 22, 2024, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

ultimately derailed his selection by President-elect Donald Trump to lead the Justice Department. Gaetz abruptly resigned from Congress last month. His political future is uncertain, although Gaetz has indicated interest in running for the open Senate seat in Florida.

The committee painted a damning portrait of Gaetz's conduct, using dozens of pages of exhibits, including text messages, financial records, travel receipts, checks and online payments, to document a party and drug-fueled lifestyle. The committee said it compiled the evidence after issuing 29 subpoenas for documents and testimony and contacting more than two dozen witnesses.

In addition to soliciting prostitution, the report said Gaetz "accepted gifts, including transportation and lodging in connection with a 2018 trip to the Bahamas, in excess of permissible amounts."

That same year, investigators said, Gaetz arranged for a staffer to obtain a passport for a woman with whom he was sexually involved, falsely telling the State Department that she was his constituent.

In some of the text exchanges made public, he appeared to be inviting

various women to events, getaways or parties, and arranging airplane travel and lodging. At one point he asked one woman if she had a "cute black dress" to wear. There were also discussions of shipping goods.

One of the exhibits was a text exchange that appeared to be between two of the women concerned about their cash flow and payments. In another, a person asked Gaetz for help to pay an educational expense.

Regarding the 17-year-old girl, the report said there was no evidence Gaetz knew she was a minor when he had sex with her. □



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Congress is looking to ban Chinese drones that are widely used in US. What to know about the debate

By DIDI TANG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The economic and technological rivalry between the United States and China has come to the drone market, where Chinese-made flying devices are a dominant player.

Lawmakers in Washington are seeking to ban new sales of drones from two dominant Chinese manufacturers, arguing they could be used to spy on Americans and that the low-cost models are hurting the U.S. drone industry.

A defense bill that passed Congress last week would bar new Chinese drones from DJI Technology and Autel Robotics should a review find them to pose an "unacceptable" risk to U.S. national security.

But American users, from police officers to farmers, mappers and filmmakers, have come to rely on Chinese-made drones, especially those by DJI.

Here are things to know about the debate.

Lawmakers say the drones pose a national security threat

Rep. Elise Stefanik, R-N.Y.,



Russell Hedrick flies a drone on his farm, Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2024, in Hickory, N.C.

Associated Press

who is President-elect Donald Trump's pick to be U.N. ambassador, has led House efforts to ban new Chinese drones, saying Americans have become too dependent on them.

"It is strategically irresponsible to allow Communist China to be our drone factory," she argued.

It was the role of drones in everyday life that drove

Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., to get Congress to restrict the purchase of Chinese drones by federal agencies. Those restrictions were included in a bill that Democratic President Joe Biden signed last year. Scott has compared Chinese drones to spy balloons that could "gather data or carry harmful payloads" across America, posing risks to military

bases, critical infrastructure and natural resources.

Drones made by DJI dominate the U.S. market

DJI, named in the bill, is the best-known Chinese drone brand. The company has the lion's share of the global drone market and is a dominant player in the U.S. market. Its drones have been used by first responders to locate disaster

victims, mappers to survey roads and utility lines, mosquito control officers to reach swarms of larvae, and filmmakers to capture aerial footage.

Founded in 2006 and based in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen, DJI makes devices that are known for their affordability and high performance. They are even used on the battlefield in Ukraine by both sides, even though DJI does not make military drones.

As U.S.-China relations soured, DJI drones have come under scrutiny. The U.S. government has put the company on several blacklists citing human rights concerns as well as alleged links to the Chinese military. DJI has denied any wrongdoing, and is suing the Pentagon over the designation that it is a Chinese military company.

U.S. customs officials have also blocked some DJI shipments over concerns that the products might have been made with forced labor. DJI has called it "a customs-related misunderstanding." □

Following controversy, Maryland Gov. Wes Moore receives Bronze Star for Army service 18 years ago

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — Maryland Gov. Wes Moore received a Bronze Star for his deployment to Afghanistan 18 years ago, several months after a controversy arose when a newspaper reported he had claimed to have received it on a 2006 White House fellowship application when the paperwork had not been fully processed.

The private ceremony at the governor's residence in Annapolis, Maryland, on Friday was confirmed by the governor's office.

Lt. Gen. Michael Fenzel, the governor's close friend and former commander who had recommended Moore for the medal, pinned the Bronze Star for "meritorious service" onto the gover-

nor's chest at the ceremony, The Washington Post reported.

"I'm so happy to be in a position to right a wrong,"

Fenzel said during the ceremony, the newspaper reported.

Moore, a Democrat, had been recommended for

the medal while he was deployed by his superiors, including Fenzel, and Fenzel encouraged Moore to include it in the application because it had received the necessary approvals, both men said.

Moore, then 27, questioned it but said Fenzel assured him it would be awarded by the time fellows were selected. Yet the award paperwork never went through.

Around the time Moore ended his 11-month deployment, he won the White House fellowship.

The New York Times reported in August that Moore had prematurely claimed the Bronze Star on the fellowship application.

Fenzel said Friday that

the controversy was the first time he learned that Moore, a former Army captain, had never received the Bronze Star. On learning about it, Fenzel said he immediately called the chief of staff to U.S. Secretary of the Army Christine Wormouth to notify her that he planned to recommend Moore for the award again and create the paperwork anew, including collecting approval from Moore's old chain of command.

The citation was signed on Nov. 19. But Moore learned he received the medal on Dec. 14, when Wormouth personally told him at the Army-Navy football game, according to the governor's staff. □



Governor Wes Moore officially receives the Bronze Star Medal in a ceremony at the Governors Mansion in Annapolis, Maryland on Friday, Dec. 20, 2024.

Associated Press

Tens of thousands displaced by ethnic violence in northeast India suffer squalid conditions in camps

By RISHI LEKHI

Associated Press

KANGPOKPI, India (AP) — Phalneivah Khonsai ran for her life when violence struck her neighborhood in India's restive northeast, carrying just the bare essentials in the hope that she and her family could return soon.

Khonsai, her husband and three children left behind their house, which was torched by a mob, and made for the hills, where thousands of people from their community headed for safety.

That was in May last year. Almost 19 months later, Khonsai, 35, is still away from home, living in a government building that was turned into a relief center with squalid conditions and little privacy.

The relief camp is in Kangpokpi, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) from Imphal, the capital of India's northeastern Manipur state, which has been wracked by ethnic violence since last year. In the building's damp and dark interior, fabric partitions separate at least 75 families like hers driven away from their homes.

"It is very difficult to live



A Kuki tribal cooks food in a relief camp in Kangpokpi, Manipur, Sunday, Dec. 15, 2024.

Associated Press

here," Khonsai said, as women went about their daily chores such as washing clothes and dishes.

The violent ethnic clashes erupted last year between the majority Meitei community and the minority Kuki-Zo tribes in Manipur. The conflict has claimed more than 250 lives and displaced at least 60,000 people.

The state remains divided into two ethnic zones, one controlled by the Meiteis

and the other by the Kuki-Zo community. The factions have formed armed militias that patrol roads checking for signs of their rivals. Borders and buffer zones guarded by security forces separate the two regions. Youths spend nights guarding vulnerable villages. Khonsai, a Kuki, said the struggles of living in a relief center are taking a toll on the family's health but they can't go back home

because they fear for their lives.

"If we go back, they will kill us. There is no hope for going back," she said.

The Meiteis, who are predominantly Hindus, live in the Imphal Valley and nearby districts, while the Kuki-Zos live in hilly areas. The violence began last year when Meiteis demanded that they be listed by the government as a Scheduled Tribe, which

would bring them more benefits such as quotas in jobs and educational institutions. That categorization would also bar non-Meiteis from buying land in the Meiteis' strongholds in the Imphal Valley.

The Kukis opposed this, saying such benefits should be given only to tribal groups that are less developed economically and less educated.

Soon, protests by both sides turned violent. Each side rampaged through villages, torching houses, massacring civilians and driving tens of thousands from their homes. Violence had receded in recent months, except for occasional flareups, but returned in November when 10 people were killed by paramilitary soldiers.

The Kuki-Zo community has been particularly hit hard by the violence. They accuse state Chief Minister N. Biren Singh of siding with the Meiteis and have sought his removal.

They now seek federal rule over the state and administrative autonomy for the community.

Singh, a Meitei, has denied the accusations. □

Australia approves extradition of former U.S. Marine over alleged training of Chinese military pilots

BY KEIRAN SMITH

Associated Press

NEWCASTLE, Australia (AP) —

Former U.S. Marine Corps pilot Daniel Duggan will be extradited from Australia to the United States over allegations that he illegally trained Chinese aviators.

Australia's Attorney General Mark Dreyfus approved the extradition on Monday, ending the Boston-born 55-year-old's nearly two-year attempt to avoid being returned to the U.S.

Duggan, who served in the Marines for 12 years before immigrating to Australia and giving up his U.S. citizenship, has been in a maximum-security prison since he was arrested in 2022 at his family home in the state

of New South Wales. He is the father of six children.

Dreyfus confirmed in a statement on Monday he had approved the extradition but did not say when Duggan would be transferred to the U.S.

"Duggan was given the opportunity to provide representations as to why he should not be surrendered to the United States. In arriving at my decision, I took into consideration all material in front of me," Dreyfus said in the statement.

In May, a Sydney judge ruled Duggan could be extradited to the U.S., leaving an appeal to the attorney general as Duggan's last hope of remaining in Australia.

In a 2016 indictment from the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., unsealed in late 2022, prosecutors said Duggan conspired with others to provide training to Chinese military pilots in 2010 and 2012, and possibly at other times, without applying for an appropriate license.

Prosecutors say he received payments totaling around 88,000 Australian dollars (\$61,000) and international travel from another conspirator for what was sometimes described as "personal development training."

If convicted, Duggan faces up to 60 years in prison. He denies the allegations.

"We feel abandoned by

the Australian government and deeply disappointed that they have completely failed in their duty to pro-

tect an Australian family," his wife, Saffrine Duggan, said in a statement on Monday. □



In this undated photo provided by Saffrine Duggan, her husband, former U.S. Marine Corps pilot Daniel Duggan, poses for a photo in a restaurant.

Associated Press

Former Israeli spies describe attack using exploding electronic devices against Hezbollah

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two recently retired senior Israeli intelligence agents shared new details about a deadly clandestine operation years in the making that targeted Hezbollah militants in Lebanon and Syria using exploding pagers and walkie talkies three months ago.

Hezbollah began striking Israel almost immediately after Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack that sparked the Israel-Hamas war.

The agents spoke with CBS "60 Minutes" in a segment aired Sunday night. They wore masks and spoke with altered voices to hide their identities.

One agent said the operation started 10 years ago using walkie-talkies laden with hidden explosives, which Hezbollah didn't realize it was buying from Israel, its enemy. The walkie-talkies were not detonated until September, a day after booby-trapped pagers were set off.

"We created a pretend world," said the officer, who went by the name "Michael."



This image taken from video shows a walkie-talkie that was exploded inside a house, in Baalbek, east Lebanon, Sept. 18, 2024.

Associated Press

Phase two of the plan, using the booby-trapped pagers, kicked in in 2022 after Israel's Mossad intelligence agency learned Hezbollah had been buying pagers from a Taiwan-based company, the second officer said.

The pagers had to be made slightly larger to accommodate the explosives hidden

inside. They were tested on dummies multiple times to find the right amount of explosive that would hurt only the Hezbollah fighter and not anyone else in close proximity.

Mossad also tested numerous ring tones to find one that sounded urgent enough to make someone pull the pager out of their

pocket. The second agent, who went by the name "Gabriel," said it took two weeks to convince Hezbollah to switch to the heftier pager, in part by using false ads on YouTube promoting the devices as dustproof, waterproof, providing a long battery life and more. He described the use of shell companies, including

one based in Hungary, to dupe the Taiwanese firm, Gold Apollo, into unknowingly partnering with the Mossad.

Hezbollah also was unaware it was working with Israel.

Gabriel compared the ruse to a 1998 psychological film about a man who has no clue that he is living in a false world and his family and friends are actors paid to keep up the illusion.

"When they are buying from us, they have zero clue that they are buying from the Mossad," Gabriel said. "We make like 'Truman Show,' everything is controlled by us behind the scene. In their experience, everything is normal. Everything was 100% kosher including businessman, marketing, engineers, showroom, everything."

By September, Hezbollah militants had 5,000 pagers in their pockets.

Israel triggered the attack on Sept. 17, when pagers all over Lebanon started beeping. The devices would explode even if the person failed to push the buttons to read an incoming encrypted message. □

China says Philippine plan to deploy midrange missiles would be 'extremely irresponsible'

By KEN MORITSUGU and TERESA CEROJANO

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China said a plan by the Philippines to

deploy midrange missiles would be a provocative move that stokes regional tensions.

The Philippines top army of-

ficial told reporters in Manila earlier on Monday that the military plans to acquire a midrange system to defend the country's territory amid tensions with China in the South China Sea.

"Yes, there are plans, there are negotiations, because we see its feasibility and adaptability," Lt. Gen. Roy Galido said.

The U.S. deployed its Typhon midrange missile system in the northern Philippines in April and troops from both countries have been training jointly for the potential use of the heavy weaponry. They have agreed to keep the system in the Philippines indefinitely to boost deterrence.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning

said that deployment of a midrange missile by the Philippines would intensify geopolitical confrontation and an arms race.

"It is an extremely irresponsible choice for the history and people of itself and the whole of Southeast Asia, as well as for the security of the region," she told a daily briefing.

China, which opposes U.S. military assistance to the Philippines, has been particularly alarmed by the deployment of the Typhon system, which can fire the Tomahawk Land Attack Missile. The Tomahawk can travel more than 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers), putting China within its range.

Under President Joe Biden, the U.S. has strengthened

an arc of alliances in the Indo-Pacific to counter China, including in any confrontation over Taiwan. The Philippines would not necessarily buy the Typhon system, Galido said.

The army is working not only with the United States but with other friendly countries on a long list of weapons platforms that it plans to acquire, he said.

The Philippines defense plan includes protecting its exclusive economic zone, which reaches 200 nautical miles (370 kilometers).

"It is paramount for the army to be able to project its force up to that extent, in coordination, of course, with the Philippine navy and the Philippine air force," Galido said. □



Philippine military chief Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr. center, listens as an exhibitor explains the Wind Demon, a long range air to surface cruise missile, during the Asian Defense and Security Exhibition on Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2024, in Manila, Philippines.

Associated Press



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Po-Ke Ono Azure launches exclusive breakfast menu



Po-Ke Ono Azure is proud to announce the launch of its exclusive breakfast menu, inviting guests to experience mornings infused with Asian-inspired flavors, fresh ingredients, and a touch of tropical paradise.

Located at the scenic Azure Residences at Eagle Beach, Po-Ke Ono now offers an exceptional morning menu with options like the Thai Breakfast Bowl, Acai Bowl, and



Asian Omelet. Designed to bring unique flavors to Aruba's breakfast scene, the menu also includes fresh coffee, mimosas, and tropical juices, perfect for pairing with the restaurant's relaxed beachside atmosphere.

"Our goal was to create a breakfast experience that captures the essence of Po-Ke Ono and brings a fresh twist to mornings here at Azure," said Executive Chef Urvin Croes, founder of Po-Ke Ono. "Each dish is crafted with care, featuring

ingredients that highlight the vibrant, Asian-inspired flavors we're known for."



Available every morning at Po-Ke Ono Azure, the new breakfast lineup is ideal for early risers and those looking for a unique start to their day.

About Po-Ke Ono Azure

Since its inception, Po-Ke Ono has quickly become a culinary landmark in Aruba, known for its signature fusion of Hawaiian and Asian flavors. With two locations across the island, Po-Ke Ono continues to innovate and delight, with Po-Ke Ono Azure offering exclusive breakfast options at the iconic Eagle Beach.□

Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Renaissance Wind Creek Aruba Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were re-

spectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10+ years consecutively visiting Aruba)

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Emerald Ambassador (35+ years home, consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Emerald Ambassadors

Mr. Lawrence & Mrs. Joanne Gosselin from Southwick, Massachusetts United States.

Ms. Keyttin Silva representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Renaissance Wind Creek Aruba Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Friendly people everywhere we go
- Very interesting History and Culture
- Excellent dining
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On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island".□



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The new kid on the block, L'Avenue currently

holds a unique position in the island's culinary scene; being the only Belgian-owned, Belgian restaurant on the island. This winning hand is not obtained by many, and L'Avenue's delicious menu and wide selection of Belgian beer, and European and New World wine emphasizes the bistro's unique vision to bring Europe into the palm of your hands!

Once part of the famous Taste of Belgium restaurant, L'Avenue offers a new point of view and brings a fresh life to what was once beloved by both locals and tourists. Crafted by Chef Juan Ludeña and his team, enjoy a superb variety of classic Belgian and French dishes served with a touch of innovation for lunch and dinner, including stews, steak-house quality meat and their famous Moules-frites, served with a variety of delicious



and rich broth.

As if that wasn't enough, enjoy your meal under warm, starry lights accompanied by live music performances every day, seated either in a relaxing and cool interior area of the restaurant, or outside against a backdrop of the bright, colorful lights of the Palm Beach strip!

More information

L'Avenue is situated at The Cove Mall in Palm Beach and is open every day from 11am to 10pm for lunch and dinner. To book a reservation or ask for more information, please contact their phone line at +297 6996400, send an e-mail info@lavenuearuba.com, or visit their website at lavenuearuba.com □



Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated

companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Karen and Donald Feldman from Lynnfield, Massachusetts, USA.

They wrote to us saying: "For the past 40 years Aruba has been more than a vacation destination. It's been a second home, a haven

where memories are woven into the fabric of our lives. Walking along Eagle Beach with its soft powdery sand, and waves lapping the shore, we find a peace that never fades.

Each sunset paints the sky with vibrant hues, reminding us of the tranquility and beauty that this island so effortlessly offers. Over the years Aruba has been a place where our family gathers and has become a cherished corner of the world that holds the past, present and future of our family memories. "Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

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Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Coming Soon: El Patio Tacos & Tequila



Aruba to me

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Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today News-

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Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Kathy, Kate, Karen & Bridget from Western MA.

They wrote to us saying: "Aruba is my paradise, my

annual escape with my besties. For over 20 years, it has been my haven of sun, sand, and crystal-clear water. The warmth of the island isn't just in the tropical breeze but in the kindness of its people. Each visit brings new friendships with people from across the country, creating lifelong memories. Aruba isn't just a destination; it's a tradition, a place where laughter echoes, bonds deepen, and my heart feels at home."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □



Create museum memories

ORANJESTAD — Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you these museums.

Museum of Industry Aruba

The Museum of Industry is located in San Nicolas—better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum exhibits the industrial history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history, which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the

Monuments Fund in 2003 so it can be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Aruba Museum Foundation (Fundacion Museo Aruban), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban cultural sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 6 pm.

For more information, check out their Facebook page Museum of Industry Aruba.

Archaeological Museum of Aruba

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in the area has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's, AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m².

In 1997, the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004, a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006, restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the soon-to-be exhibition space. In December 2007, the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The

final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location, the National Archaeological Museum Aruba disposes of approximately 500 m² for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island through archaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts attractive public programs, including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm. For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba. □



Did you know about...

Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 1)



(Oranjestad)—Have you ever felt confused when you're driving on the highways or backstreets of Aruba? Then we present a simple guide to some of the basic rules of Aruban traffic, along with some tips for things to look out for.

Speed limit

Legally, the speed limit on the four-lane highways is 80 km/h. This speed limit also counts for the main roads that are connected to the highways. The minimum speed is 50 km/h. Most people drive around 60 km/h on the main roads and about 70 km/h on the highways. There are also areas that indicate a speed limit on a sign; these are

usually around populated and school areas.

The four-lane highways contain the left-lane, also known as the "fast" lane for each direction. Here is where vehicles can drive up to the maximum speed. However, legally it is not permitted to drive for long periods of time on the left lane. This lane is primarily designed for drivers to switch lanes before a roundabout, for example, if your exit on the roundabout is on your far left. The general lane to drive in—both at maximum and minimum speed—is on the right lane.

Roundabouts

Speaking of roundabouts, it



is important to know where you have to enter and drive on the roundabout to make your exit. A good rule of thumb is to count the exits starting from your right side. So, exit 1 would be on your right; exit 2 would be straight ahead; exit 3 would be on your far left and exit 4 would lead to the road paralleled to the one you're on, heading in the other direction.

Most roundabouts have these 4 exits, so they are relatively simple. When you're driving on the four-lane highway, it is important to know when to switch to the left lane to make your exit: if your exit is on your far left (exit 3), then you need to switch to the left lane on the highway before nearing the roundabout so you can take the path that leads you directly to your exit. If your exit is on your right or if you're going straight ahead, you can keep driving in the right lane of the highway.

It's also important to know that vehicles about to enter the roundabout must yield to those already on it. A good rule of thumb is to

look out if someone is coming from your left side.

However, other roundabouts can be quite tricky to navigate...

Watty Vos Boulevard (the "paperclip" roundabout)

Probably the biggest roundabout on the island, the "paperclip" roundabout on the Watty Vos Boulevard is one of the trickier roundabouts that could—and has—caused confusion among both tourists and locals. However, once you take a good look at it, it's fairly simple. The basis is just the same as a regular roundabout (left exit? left lane! etc.), but instead of having four different exits like on a regular roundabout, now you have two extra; one on the right and the other on the left side of the roundabout. The rules don't change at all, you just have to keep an extra eye open.

Airport roundabout

Ah, yes. The infamous airport roundabout. The favorite roundabout amongst local, because of its easy (hard) lanes that never

(always) cause confusion among drivers. Sarcasm aside, this roundabout can be tricky to enter, especially when you're driving from the direction of the airport heading. When you're driving away from the airport reaching the roundabout, you'll be faced with three lanes. The far right lane is to take the exit 1 out heading east (right lane of highway). The middle exit is used for exit 1 (left lane of highway), 2 and 3. The far left exit is used to only exit on exit 3 (left lane of highway) and 4.

"Las Americas" round-about

The Las Americas roundabout is located near the Talk of the Town hotel, west from the airport roundabout. This roundabout may look like a regular roundabout—and for the most part, it is. However, when you are driving from the east going in the direction of town, please take note that there are two exits on your right.

When you're driving towards this roundabout, you'll notice that the road becomes wider, splitting into two lanes. The right lane is used to take the first and second exit on the right. If you want to exit straight ahead, you must drive on the left lane!

It's always scary to drive in new places where the traffic may look and work differently, but once you get it right once, you'll get the hang of it in no time. Additionally, all roundabouts and roads on Aruba have signs and arrows painted on the road to help guide you. So take your time, keep your eyes open and don't forget to wear a seat belt! □



For a small island, Aruba sure has a lot of unique treasures. Among these, we have some subspecies of animals that are unique to our island. These have evolved to perfectly adapt to our desert climate and make Aruba their home. At the same time, they are part of what makes Aruba truly one of a kind.

Cascabel (rattlesnake, *Crotalus durissus unicolor*)

According to the Arikok National Park, Aruba knows two kinds of snakes, the Santanero and the Cascabel. The cascabel belongs to the rattlesnake family. The cascabel is the only venomous snake from Aruba. It has a length of 65cm to 100cm, and is about 4 to 5cm wide. Its color varies from light brown to grey-brown, and its underbelly is white. On its back there are marks that are a little darker, in the shape of diamonds.

Its reproduction is oviparous, meaning the offspring can hatch from their eggs just before, during or immediately after laying.

The cascabel lives mainly in the Arikok National Park. It likes to live in dark places, and is thus found hidden among the limestone rocks and under stones. As a defense mechanism, the cascabel uses its rattle as a warning, and it is not an aggressive animal.

The cascabel feeds on lizards, small mammals such as rats and mice. It paralyzes or kills its prey with its venom, which is injected through a bite. The enemies of the casca-

bel are donkeys, goats, humans and cars. Humans are the biggest enemy of the cascabel, as they kill them and destroy their habitat for urbanization.

Shoco (burrowing owl, *Athene cunicularia arubensis*)

The shoco is a small bird which is seldom seen. They are active during the day but are more active later in the day and at night for hunting. These owls have very good night vision and very good hearing. The shoco is the national symbol of Aruba.

The shoco has about 20cm of length, and the females are slightly heavier than the males. They are light brown in color, with many white spots. The belly of the Shoco is either white or light brown, and the shoco has striking yellow eyes. Its beak is yellow/green. Young owls do not have white spots and are lighter in color. The nest of the shoco is a burrow in the ground. If the shoco cannot find a burrow, it will dig one in soft soil. The shoco lays one or two eggs every other day until all the eggs are laid – a shoco can lay up to four eggs. The first owlets hatch after three to four weeks. The shoco owl takes care of the owlets for three months until they leave the nest. Only a few owlets survive.

The owls dig burrows in the ground with low grass vegetation. An owl can live up to nine years.

Its defense mechanism is simply to fly away or retreat to its burrows. They eat mostly insects, mice and

Unique fauna of Aruba

lizards, and the main threats to their survival are boas – an invasive species introduced by humans as pets – and humans through destruction of their habitat.

Prikichi

(parakeet, *Aratinga pertinax*)

The Prikichi is the national bird of Aruba. On Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao, parakeets can be found, but each of the three islands has a different breed. The Yellow-shouldered Amazon parakeet that we have on Aruba is also found along the coast of Venezuela. Unfortunately, there is interbreeding between the breeds due to cage birds from, for example, Curaçao being released on Aruba. The parakeet population on Aruba is in danger due to extensive deforestation occurring on the island because of the growing population.

The prikichi weighs between 90 to 100 grams. It has a greenish-brown head with some yellow around the eye. The back and wings of the parakeet are dark green, and the underside of the body is a lighter shade of green. There is also a bit of blue in the wings. The parakeet's beak is gray/black.

Parakeets often use termite nests as breeding sites. Parakeets are found in all natural environments (mondi) of the island. It defends itself by flying away and loud cries. Parakeets eat seeds from the pods of the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi, and columnar cactus. They also consume natural fruits. Its main predators are boa constrictors, humans.

Conew (cottontail rabbit, *Sylvilagus floridanus nigronuchalis*)

The Eastern Cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) was probably brought over to the island by Indian settlers thousands of years ago as a source of food. This rabbit, locally known as Conew, has spread all over the island and has become part of our ecosystem. The very adaptable Conew can live in

a wide variety of habitats, including Aruba's xeric scrublands, where it typically grazes on weeds and grasses.

The Aruban Conew has a brownish grey color and a distinctive white belly. This white fur extends to the bottom of the tail which becomes visible as the rabbit runs. These rabbits can grow up to approximately 40 centimeters in length over their short lifespan of 3 years. Cottontail rabbits reach reproductive maturity when they are just 2 to 3 months old. A female rabbit, called a doe, finds a suitable nest spot under a shrub or rocks and lines it with fur. She can have an average of 3 to 4 litters per year averaging 5 young each. The doe only visits her young once or twice a day to nurse her babies for a period of 2 to 3 weeks. The young reach independence at 4 to 5 weeks.

The Aruban Conew is an endangered species and protected by Aruban law. The Conew is thought to have drastically declined due to an increase in human activities, habitat fragmentation and predation by the invasive Boa constrictor as well as feral cats and dogs. However, recently there seem to be more rabbit sightings in rural and wilderness areas and also in the National Park. This could be linked to a recent decline of the invasive Boa population after the long period of drought. As the Conew can reproduce very quickly, a short break in predation pressure can lead to a fast increase of rabbits. Sadly, the Boas are back on the rise again with the truly wet rainy seasons we have recently experienced. This could cause a new decline in the Conew population that was just starting to recover.

These are but a few of Aruba's beautiful inhabitant, which we must all contribute to protect. For more information, visit <https://www.arubanationalpark.org/main/flora-fauna/> □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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1 Mob home

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10 Not out city

11 Hag

12 Said with DOWN

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13 Washer bird

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15 Raw bar item

16 Cardinal color

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18 Pig's place

19 Fresh-faced

22 Phobia

23 New Mexico art colony

26 Difficult word

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34 Dream up

36 Tag info

37 Some messages

38 Shows nervousness

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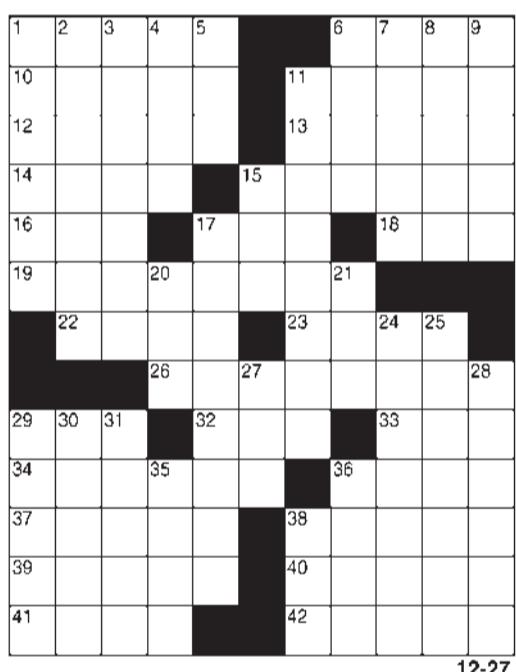
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12-27

A X Y D L B A A X R
is LONG FELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-27

CRYPTOQUOTE

P X W ' Z F R H K I H M P Z X V Z H I Z
X B R I H Q H M W . Z G M V Z M E R .
L X D ' I R W X Z V Z H I Z M W Q K I X E
V O I H Z O G ; L X D ' I R V Z H I Z M W Q
K I X E R A U R I M R W O R .
— D W J W X T W

Cryptoquote: KWANZAA IS A SPECIAL TIME TO REMEMBER THE ANCESTORS, THE BRIDGE BUILDERS AND THE LEADERS.
— DOROTHY WINRIJSH RILEY

Cruise ship Schedule: December 23 - 27 2024

		ARR	DEPT	BERTH
MON	23	SILVER RAY	08.00	23.00
		AIDAPERLA	08.00	18.00
TUE	24	CELEBRITY REFLECTION	08.00	21.00
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00
		MSC DIVINA	08.00	22.00
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****
WED	25	ROTTERDAM	08.00	17.00
		NORWEGIAN GEM	07.00	21.00
THU	26	OCEANIA INSIGNIA	08.00	23.00
		CELEBRITY ECLIPSE	11.30	21.00
		EMERALD PRINCESS	09.00	22.00
FRI	27	SEVEN SEAS NAVIGATOR	09.00	23.59
		SILVER MOON	08.00	23.00
		NORWEGIAN JADE	07.00	20.00

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



buy bottled water from the store.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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Phase 2
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Room # 3208
11 weeks remaining building C
elevator ocean view
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Divi Village

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Studio week #1 room # 8201
Contract expire : 2043
Building D
Price :\$8000
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johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village

Eagle beach
Studio wk # 5 room # 8105
Building D 1 st floor
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Divi village Golf

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Room # 2118 birdie 3
23 weeks remaining
Price :\$9000
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One bedroom week 52 room
953 One bedroom week 01
room # 654
Contract expire : 2053
Price :\$60,000 both weeks
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johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Aruba Divi Phoenix

Palm beach
Two bedroom week 01 room
#672
Contract expire :31 st December
2047
Price :\$35 ,000
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ary 2025
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contract Price : \$ 8000
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Studio WK # 3
room # 2317 \$8000
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Studio WK # 4 room # 2129
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johnnypaesch@gmail.com

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35 weeks remaining on the
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Price :\$10,000 each week
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Divi Village

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3308
16 weeks remaining building C
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San Nicolas:

San Nicolas:Tel.584 5712

OTHER

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
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Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank	Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired	Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous	Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous	Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia	Relacional Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes	Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention	Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club	Tel. 525 2672

General Info

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Bob Dylan biopic 'A Complete Unknown' is electric in more ways than one

By MARK KENNEDY
AP Entertainment Writer

"A Complete Unknown" certainly lives up to its title. You are hardly closer to understanding the soul of Bob Dylan after watching more than two hours of this moody look at America's most enigmatic troubadour. But that's not the point of James Mangold's biopic: It's not who Dylan is but what he does to us. Mangold, who directed and co-wrote the screenplay with Jay Cocks, doesn't do a traditional cradle-to-the-near-grave treatment. He concentrates on the few crucial years between when Dylan arrived in New York in 1961 and when he blew the doors off the Newport Folk Festival in 1965 by adding a Fender Stratocaster. That means we never learn anything about Dylan before he arrives in Manhattan's Greenwich Village with a guitar, a wool-lined



This image released by Searchlight Pictures shows Timothée Chalamet in a scene from "A Complete Unknown."

Associated Press

bomber jacket, a fisherman's cap and ambition. And Dylan being Dylan, we just get scraps after that. The world spins around him, this uber-cypher of American song. Women fall in love with him, musicians seek his orbit, fans demand his autograph, record executives fight over his signature. The Cuban Missile Crisis melds into the Kennedy assassination and the March on Washington. What does Dylan make of all this? The answer is blowing in the wind.

Any sane actor would run away from this assignment. Not Timothée Chalamet, and "A Complete

Unknown" is his most ambitious work to date, asking him not only to play insecure-within-a-sneer but also to play and sing 40 songs in Dylan's unmistakable growl, complete with blustery harmonica. Daniel Craig has been called brave for his role this awards season in "Queer." Try playing "Subterranean Homesick Blues" in front of a crowd. The last big non-documentary attempt to understand Dylan was Todd Haynes' "I'm Not There," which split the assignment among seven actors. Chalamet does it all, moving from callow, fresh-faced

songs to arrogant, selfish New Yorker to jaded, staggering pop star to Angry Young Man. There are moments when Chalamet tilts his head down and looks at the world slyly, like Princess Diana. There are others when the resemblance is uncanny, but also moments when it is a tad forced. You cannot deny he's got the essence of Dylan down, though. The movie's title is pulled from Dylan's lyrics for "Like a Rolling Stone" and it's adapted from Elijah Wald's book "Dylan Goes Electric! Newport, Seeger, Dylan, and the Night That Split the Sixties." Dylan isn't a producer but did consult on the script.

It's not the most glowing profile, though the sheer brilliance of the songs so many the movie might be deemed a musical show Dylan's undeniable genius. Chalamet's Dylan is unfaithful, jealous and puckish. The movie suggests that adding electric guitar at Newport in '65 was less a brave stand for music's evolution than a middle finger to anyone who dared put him in a box.

In some ways, "A Complete Unknown" uses some of the DNA from "I'm Not There." The best clues to what's going on behind Dylan's shades are the re-

fracted light from others, like Joan Baez, Johnny Cash, Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger and a girlfriend called Sylvie Russo, based on Dylan's ex Suze Rotolo, who is pictured on 1963's album cover for "The Free-wheelin' Bob Dylan."

Edward Norton is a hang-dog Seeger hoping to harness Dylan for the goodness of folk, astonished by his talent. Monica Barbaro is a revelation as Baez, Dylan's on-again-off-again paramour. Boyd Holbrook is a sharklike, disrupting Cash, with the movie's best line: "Make some noise, B.D. Track some mud on the carpet." And Elle Fanning is captivating as Russo, the sweetheart sucked into this crazy rock drama. It's Baez and Russo who dig the deepest into trying to find out who Dylan is. They don't buy his stories about learning from the carnival and call him on his facade-building. "I don't know you," Russo says, calling him a "mysterious minstrel" and urging him to "Stop hiding." Too late, sister.

There are some lovely moments, especially the morning after Baez spends the night and she wakes to him working on "Blowin' in the Wind." They spar a bit (he calls her songs "oil paintings at a dentist office," and she calls him worse than a jerk) but they come together on the side of his bed in their underwear, he fumbling through what will be one of the greatest protest songs in history, and she supplying delicate harmony. Mangold, who directed the Cash biopic "Walk the Line" is always good with music and clearly loves being in this world. There's one scene that initially puzzles Dylan stops on the street to buy a toy whistle and you wonder why the director has wasted our time.

Then we see Dylan pull it out at the top of the recording of "Highway 61 Revisited" and suddenly it answers all those years of wondering what that crazy sound was. □

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Downtown

49ers eliminated from NFC playoffs before game against Miami. Cowboys, Saints, Cardinals also out

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)

— The defending NFC champion San Francisco 49ers were eliminated from the playoffs before their game at Miami began on Sunday because of victories by Washington and the Los Angeles Rams.

Then they couldn't play the role of spoiler, losing 29-17 and keeping the Dolphins' slim playoff hopes alive.

The 49ers (6-9) became the 16th team to miss the postseason after losing the previous Super Bowl. They fell 25-22 to the Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl 58 on Feb. 11. San Francisco's fate was sealed during a stretch of four losses in five games leading into Sunday. Coach Kyle Shanahan did not know about the team being eliminated until after the loss to Miami. "I wasn't aware of that but it did nothing with the game," Shanahan said. "We kind of had that thought last week. It wasn't official but we understand numbers."

Among the numbers that spelled San Francisco's doom on Sunday: 11 penalties for 90 yards. The Niners were flagged three times for unsportsmanlike conduct and twice on pre-snap penalties.

The Niners had the ball at their 47 while trailing 22-17 at the two-minute warning, but Miami cornerback Kader Kohu intercepted Brock Purdy. Three plays later, De'Von Achane's 50-yard touchdown run secured the win for the Dolphins. "I just feel like we're hurting ourselves offensively and then when the defense gets a stop, we've got to go and capitalize," Purdy said. "Last year we did that really well."

The Niners also won the NFC title in the 2019 season and lost to the Chiefs in the Super Bowl, only to miss the playoffs the following season. On Sunday, the Niners made their first appearance in South Florida since their first Super Bowl loss to the Chiefs.

"You asked me if I had PTSD from that (game)? No. It's a great stadium. Great



San Francisco 49ers head coach Kyle Shanahan leaves the field at the end of an NFL football game against the Miami Dolphins, Sunday, Dec. 22, 2024, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Associated Press

atmosphere," tight end George Kittle said. "I had fun out there, besides the outcome of the game." Kittle finished with eight catches for 106 yards. He is now 33 yards from a fourth 1,000-yard season in his eight-year career.

"Although we are eliminated, we still have two weeks of football left and if I have football in front of me, I am going to play as hard as I possibly can and try to get the guys around me to do the same thing," Kittle said. The Commanders' win over the Philadelphia Eagles eliminated San Francisco from wild-card contention, and the Rams' victory at the New York Jets ended the Niners' hopes of an NFC West title. □

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Shohei Ohtani wins 3rd AP Male Athlete of the Year award, tying Michael Jordan for 1 shy of record

By BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Shohei Ohtani is keeping elite company.

The Japanese superstar caps 2024 by winning The Associated Press Male Athlete of the Year for the third time, tying him with basketball great Michael Jordan. He trails only four-time winners Lance Armstrong, Tiger Woods and LeBron James.

"I'm very honored," Ohtani said through translator Matt Hidaka in an exclusive interview with the AP. "Obviously all the hard work has paid off. Maybe next year, I'll get the award again."

In balloting by 74 sports



Los Angeles Dodgers designated hitter Shohei Ohtani smiles in the dugout before a spring training baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels in Phoenix, Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

Associated Press

journalists from the AP and its members, Ohtani received 48 votes. He previously won the award in 2023 and 2021, when he was with the Angels.

"Growing up in Japan, I did follow Michael Jordan and Tiger Woods," he said. "I would see their accolades and how they were successful in the United States."

The AP honor has been given out since 1931. Golfer Babe Didrikson won six times, the most by a man or woman.

Swimmer Léon Marchand of France, who won four gold medals at the Paris Olympics, was second with 10 votes in balloting announced Monday. Golfer Scottie Scheffler, whose victories this year included the Masters and an Olympic gold medal, was third with nine.

The AP Female Athlete of the Year will be announced Tuesday.

Moving from the beleaguered Los Angeles Angels to the powerhouse Los Angeles Dodgers, Ohtani won his third Most Valuable Player award and first in the National League, led his new team to its eighth World Series championship and created Major League Baseball's 50/50 club by hitting 54 home runs and stealing 59 bases.

Ohtani signed a then-record \$700 million, 10-year contract with the Dodgers in December 2023. Already a two-way superstar, he embellished his reputation even further despite not pitching all season while he rehabilitated from a second major right elbow surgery he had in September 2023.

Ohtani went wild on offense, making every at-bat a must-see moment. The 6-foot-4 designated hitter batted a career-high .310 while easily surpassing his previous career highs in home runs and stolen bases.

In September, he reached the previously unheard of 50/50 mark in a performance for the ages. Against the Miami Marlins in Florida, Ohtani went 6 for 6 with three homers, 10 RBIs, two stolen bases and 17 total bases.

"It wouldn't shock me if he went 60/60 and 20 wins a year from now," Brad Ausmus, who managed the Angels in 2019 during Ohtani's second season in Anaheim, said recently. "This guy is the greatest athlete to ever play the sport of baseball and there's not a close second."

Ohtani said he knew the Dodgers' franchise record for most homers in a season was 49. His previous best was 46, set in 2021.

"I kind of wanted to get over that bar," he said. "I was pleasantly surprised I was able to pass that record."

Ohtani carried the Dodgers offensively during the regular season, and he stayed healthy until Game 2 of the World Series. He injured his left shoulder trying to steal second base against the New York Yankees and finished the Series playing hurt.

He underwent surgery a few days after the Dodgers celebrated their championship in early November.

"I don't have full range of motion yet, but it feels a lot better," he told the AP. "There's no pain. □

An advertisement for Aruba Tourism Authority. It features a blue and white background with glowing yellow circles and stars. The text "Happy Holidays" is written in a large, elegant, yellow script font. Below it, smaller text reads: "We are filled with gratitude for all the moments we shared during 2024. May 2025 be a year of connection, renewal, and deep inspiration. May this season be filled with peace and moments of unity." At the bottom, it says "A message from ARUBA ARUBA TOURISM AUTHORITY". There is also a QR code and the text "ENJOY Our end of year song".